



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ghost Security Group Alwari Android Application Press Release

In December 2015, among various items published on a website frequently visited by Islamic State supporters, Ghost Security Group researchers identified two Android app data files named alrawi.apk. Soon thereafter, we discussed the find with writers and journalists who cover IS's online activities.

Several news organizations had recently published stories about the Amaq Agency app used to distribute IS-supportive propaganda. Clearly, other organizations were interested in breaking news about another app that may have been developed by IS to reduce the group's reliance on popular apps like Telegram, whose creators may be able to disrupt IS's exploitations of their technologies.

In our correspondence and discussions with writers and journalists who sought information about the alrawi app we noted we were still investigating this app's potential uses. While we did share that our preliminary examinations of the app led us to believe it may have been used for certain purposes, such as to support encrypted communications, we advised we had not arrived at any firm conclusions about its intended uses.

It is unfortunate that our statements concerning preliminary investigations of these apps' possible uses were construed as firm conclusions in several stories. Notable among these stories is one published today by The Daily Dot. Prior to this story's publication, in a phone interview, we advised an author of The Daily Dot's story that we were still analyzing the apps found in December.

Meanwhile, we were pleased to learn a respected firm which The Daily Dot requested help analyzing the app from had confirmed one of our determinations that was shared with a major news organization in recent weeks: The version of the app shared with The Daily Dot was created using MIT's App Inventor.

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